

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
E X T E N S I O N S E R V I C E

Washington 25, D. C.

SOME 4-H CLUB PROGRAM-BUILDING PRINCIPLES
FOR 15- to 21-YEAR-OLDS

PRELIMINARY

For administrative and
supervisory use only

By

Kenneth W. Ingwalson
Division of Field Coordination

In addition to the present 4-H Club program and organization, it is evident that additional emphasis and approach to the 15- to 21-year-olds are needed through 4-H work.

Reasons:

1. We begin to lose members rapidly when they are between 14 and 15 years of age.
2. We need to enroll a larger proportion of the available number in the age group, although nationally 4-H work enrolls about 600,000 boys and girls between 14 and 21.
3. Youth in this age group are obviously ready to take part in many kinds of work for which younger ones are not ready. This makes them a desirable group for extension teaching as well as important key people in a community.
4. Methods, projects, programs, and organization now used apparently are not always of the type that meets the interest or situation of a sufficient number of this group.
5. Large problems ahead must be faced by all people. The youth of the Nation need to be equipped to face them. This age group can actually take part in their solution.
6. The 4-H program is so universally accepted by the public that additional 4-H work with this group will be well received.

The following set of principles, when checked against the present program, may be one of several tools useful in indicating what action needs to be taken.

849(5-46)

Principles of Program and Organization

Present Situation

How can this principle be applied to 4-H Program in your State?

1. MIXED GROUPS - boys and girls together.

Because:

1. Their interest in opposite sex is high.
2. They want and need wholesome and normal opportunities to meet boy and girl friends.

Examples: Separate groupings. Older youth participating only with younger ones.

2. LARGE GROUPINGS.

Because:

1. Interests of young people go beyond the neighborhood.
2. Transportation and communication make the neighborhood shrink in relative size. The "Rocket World" is very small.
3. They want to explore the world beyond the crossroads.

3. GROUP WORK.

Because:

1. Young people like to tackle large jobs together.
2. Theirs is the age of great confidence in themselves.
3. They want to make decisions with their friends on what the whole group is to do.

The individual may or may not be ready to accept the group decision on what he* should do for himself.

He may not want to choose the thing he wants to do with the group, or as a part of it, until after a thorough discussion with them.

* "He" is used throughout to denote both boys and girls to avoid repetition.

Principles of Program and Organization	Present Situation	How Can This Principle be applied to 4-H Program in your State?
4. GROUP ACTIVITY		
Because:		
1. The person of this age is concerned with the way of the activity, <u>what</u> is its meaning - its <u>value</u> .		
2. The activity must be <u>purposeful</u> in his estimation.		
3. Opportunity for active leadership may appeal to only a few and give proper satisfaction. This opportunity is important for them, however.		
4. Social contacts for good times are <u>highly important</u> .		
5. Organized clubs may wish to be the leaders in sponsoring events for others of similar age.		
6. They want to do something <u>different</u> .		
5. RESPONSIBILITY CHOSEN BY THE INDIVIDUAL HIMSELF.		
Because:		
1. He works at what he likes and what he thinks is worth while.		
2. His interest is settling upon what he wants to do as a life work. His own plan for the future is as important as that of the group.		
3. Being near the period of complete independence he will develop <u>his own</u> philosophy of life.		
4. He is capable of large enterprises which he may choose without regard to the group.		

Principles of Program and Organization

Present Situation

How can this principle be applied to 4-H Program in your State?

6. INDIVIDUAL IMPROVEMENT

Because:

1. One of teen age or above is approaching the period of actual independence. He wants to improve himself primarily in two ways:

a. Economic:

How can he improve his earnings now

and in the future?

Choice of vocation and improving himself in relation to choice made, becoming increasingly important.

b. Social:

How to improve himself or herself

in relation to a specific person or

a group is becoming a dominant question.

2. Post-war problems are his problems.

What kind of world does he face?

What are his opportunities?

What part can he take in solving larger problems?

3. Many problems cannot be solved by the group or only through group activity. Individual work is necessary.

7. RECOGNITION.

The group the individual belongs to or the work he engages in must be recognized as being important by his best friends or by important people whom he trusts or believes in.